VANCE'S LETTER-BOOKS.

More Extracts From These Interesting Documents--Evidences of the Governor's Constant Battling for the Interests of His State.

Messenger Bureau, Park Hotel, Raleigh, N. C., June 26.

(Special Correspondence.) Continuing the gathering of notes from Governor Vance's war letter books, it is interesting to note that Brigadier General A. G. Jenkins, writing him from Salem, Va., says it had been found necessary to send quite a number of cavalry horses to North Carolina in order to get food for them, but that the people showed great indisposition to sell their produce for confederate money at any price. This letter is dated January 28, 1863. General Jenkins requested Governor Vance to give authority to confederate officers to impress supplies. General Jenkins personally eulogized Vance, saying both had served together in the old federal congress.

Governor Vance replied that he could not, consistently with the duty he owed his own people, comply with General Jenkins' request, and added that the section where the horses were had been devastated by drought. He added that he had written the secretary of war protesting against the presence of these horses and urging their removal. [This letter, which was a very sharp one, was published in the first installment.]

Colonel T. P. August, a Virginian. was appointed commander of North Carolina conscripts, with headquarters at Raleigh. A great deal of bitterness resulted. Hon. W. T. Dortch, then a congressman, wrote Governor Vance from Richmond, January 31, 1863: "Having heard that a Virginian had been appointed commander of conscripts in our state, I waited on the secretary of state this morning and protested against it. The secretary informed me that he had received a letter from you on the subject; that the appointment had been made by the conscript bureau without his knowledge and that he would have it attended to. He asked me to recommend tee was a North Carolinian. I took occasion to say to him that some regard in future I hoped would be paid to the is not very soon made I ask that you will adivise me and we will unanimousgust. It is important that there should be entire acord between yourself and the commandant of conscripts."

writs of habeas corpus were being is-Vance replied: "The writ of habeas man and I have neither the power nor inclination to prevent the issuing of

war against the appointment by the confederacy of officers of some of the state regiments.

Vance replied February 4th, sending a list of the "state" regiments and saying: "These regiments were organized cause of our independence. I think originally for the period of the war un- that I know Judge Pearson's opinion on der a state law, and the governor was required under that law to commission the officers and to fill vacancies therein. The remaining regiments from this state in the confederate service, known as 'conscript regiments,' were orinally twelve months men and the appointment of their officers is given to the president by an act of April 16, 1862, and is conceded by the state authorities." (The list of which the governor spoke is not given in the letter book, nor is there a copy of a letter from Colonel Avery of the 6th regiment, which he says he inclosed to the secretary of war).

February 9th a letter was written to A. S. Merrimon, solicitor Eighth district, directing him to take the necessary steps to secure the presence of all the Madison county prisoners taken by the recent expedition, and also to investigate the shooting of a number of these prisoners. These are the men who engaged in the raid on the town of Marshall January 15th. They were confederate deserters and Colonel Allen, Sixty-fourth North Carolina, hanged

and shot some of them. The secretary of war renewed his request to be allowed to impress slaves in piedmont North Carolina, to build the Danville railway (from Greensboro to Danville). The governor again refused and said the slaves of twenty Petersburg: He added: "This road is viewed with almost universal disfavor in this state, as entirely ruinous to many roads east of it, and the charter never could have been obtained but as a pressing war necessity. I feel it due to candor that I should add a very general impression exists here that upon the completion of the Danville connection, as it is termed, the eastern lines | they had any order to do so barbarous of our roads would be abandoned to the enemy. How far this opinion does injustice to the purpose of the war department I am unable to say. I merely state the fact. For these reasons and the additional one that the road is being built by private contractors I do not feel that I could be justified in forcing the labor of citizens upon it." The secretary of war wanted the gauge of the new road to be that of the Virginia roads, but the North Carolina legisla-

ture negatived that plan. President S. D. Wallace, of the Wilmington and Weldon railway, wrote the governor that the traffic on that line was so immense, in the way of transporting troops and merchandise, that its rails were wearing out, and that four forges were in blast all the while repairing laminated and fractured rails. He asked the governor to let him have 300 or 400 tons of new rail. He said he had learned that it was the

Rutherford, and that if this were true he would like to have the quantity named.

Vance asked that the Sixteenth North Carolina regiment be sent from Lee's army to come to this state to gather up deserters and recreant conscripts. General Lee in reply said: "Details of officers and men have been made from all North Carolina regiments to visit the state to obtain recruits and absentees. Two North Carolina brigades, Ramseur's and Cooke's, have recently been detailed from this army to North Carolina, with the hope that their ranks may be filled. At this time I do not think it expedient to make further detailments."

February 10th the secretary of war said General Lee's army was dependent on the means of getting forage from North Carolina. Colonel Wadly brought this letter here, and he wrote the secretary of war: "Everything is in the intensest confusion on the North Carolina railway and I can get no satisfactory answer from the Wilmington and Weldon about transportation of corn. The state holds a controlling interest in both roads." Wadly wanted the government to assume absolute control over both these roads. The secretary of war wanted the governor olina. to take control of them.

The governor urged the president to be extremely liberal in the matter of exemptions under the conscript law in the Tenth Congressional district. The president said he recognized the strength of the appeal.

\$17; that freight from England to Nassau was \$30 per ton by steamer and from Nassau to Wilmington \$300 per ton, adding \$5 to the cost of each rifle. He added: "There is an all-pervading impression of an early peace. This is the opinion of Europeans and of northern men who are here."

February 15th General Whiting wrote that there was a deplorable condition of affairs in Robeson county; that deserters were plundering and burning the late legislature by a joint resolution some one of our officers, saying he pre- and that he had sent Captain McOrferred a man in the army. I replied I nough's company of the Fifty-first had no preference, provided the appoin- | North Carolina "to capture or destroy these freebooters."

R. F. Armfield, February 19th, wrote sensibilities of our people in regard to the governor of a startling occurrence appointments. If another appointment which had greatly exasperated the people of Yadkin county, this being the murder of two magistrates by a band ly demand the removal of Colonel Au- of deserters and fugitive conscripts. He went on to say that there was a powerful opposition to the conscript law among the union friends and that many of that class swore they would General Whiting complained that die at home before they would be forced off, and when the time came for them sued to bring before the courts the to go about 100 took to the woods. They cases of persons who were in the army | made threats against the militia which and who were alleged to be minors sought to capture them. Finally twelve (which then meant under 18 years of of the militia found sixteen of them in age.) Whiting wanted the issue of a school house. There was a fight. The writs stopped and said the whole civil men finally fled out of the house leavgovernment depended on the military. ing two dead and carrying off two wounded. Two of the militia were corpus is the common right of every killed. Four of the conscripts afterwards surrendered voluntarily. Armfield said the leaders were in a part of the county so disloyal that it would be difficult to find them. He wanted to Vance protested to the secretary of know what was to be done with the four who were prisoners and said suppose we try them for murder, do you North Carolina "state" regiments "for | not believe that our supreme court will the war." The secretary of war wanted | declare the conscript law unconstituto know which were regarded as the tional and thus leave these men justified in resisting its execution? I believe it will and tremble to think of the consequences of such a blur upon the the conscript act and I believe that he is just itching to pronounce it unconstitutional. It would demoralize our army in the field and bring first the horrors of civil war to our own doors. Could these men, and ought they if they could, be turned over to the confederate courts, to be tried for treason? I hope you know I am conservative and for the rights of the citizens and the states, but for my country always and for independence at all haz-

Governor Vance had a meeting of the directors of the North Carolina railway called for the purpose of seeing what could be done to relieve the great strain of transportation upon that road. He urged that the part of the road from Goldsboro to Raleigh be turned over to the Atlantic and North Carolina railway for operation, as the latter had plenty of rolling stock, etc.

February 16th A. S. Merrimon reported that thirteen of the Madison county prisoners (referred to above) had been killed; "that some of them were not taken with arms in their hands, but at their homes; that all of them were prisoners when they were shot; that they were taken off to a secluded gorge or cave in the mountains and made to kneel down and were then shot; that one was mortally counties had for months been at work | wounded in the bowels and while he on fortifications from Wilmington to was writhing in agony and praying to God for mercy, a soldier mercilessly and brutally shot him in the head with his pistol; that some men were whipped, and that all this was done by order of Lieutenant Colonel James A. Keith." Merrimon added: "I do not know what you intend to do with the guilty persons, but I suggest they are all guilty of murder. I do not suppose a deed, but if they had the order was absolutely void, no matter by whom issued. Such savage and barbarous cruelty is without a parallel in this state and I hope in every other."

February 27th Governor Vance wrote the secretary of war: "I learn that the war department has refused to accept the resignation of Colonel W. P. Bynum, Second North Carolina troops, who was elected by the legislature of North Carolina solicitor of the Seventh district. I beg leave to protest against this disrespect towards the civil government. The office is an important one and Colonel Bynum was chosen for it by the legislature, without his solicitation on a deliberate conviction of his fitness for the place. Common courtesy, it seems to me, remires that his resignation should be

The legislature prohibited the distil-

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ernor Vance wrote Judge Osborne at requests for active service at the front; Charlotte to issue bench warrants that he knew the men and that they against distillers in Lincoln and other counties.

February 28th the governor wrote the secretary of war of the killing by Lieutenant Colonel Keith of the Sixtyfourth North Carolina of the Madison prisoners, and said: "A degree of cruelty and barbarity on his part was displayed, shocking and outrageous in the extreme. I desire you to have proceedings instituted at once against this officer, who if the half be told is a dis-

statement as to the killing, saying: tins', in place of Cantwell's. Probably eight of the thirteen were not in the company which robbed Marshall. They were all buried in a trench. I send their names. One named Shelton was 14, another of the same name 17, and yet another, David Shelton, only 13, while Joseph Cleandon was 15 or 16. Colonel D. K. MacRae wrote January I can't learn the names of the soldiers 28th from Nassau, saying that rifles who shot them, some of them shrank could be bought in England for \$14 to from the brutal transaction at first, but were compelled to act. There was no trial or any hearing whatever."

. The North Carolina railway officials notified the governor, February 28, 1863, of the purchase of two locomotives from the confederate government and the rent of one from the Manassas Gap at 8 per cent. interest on bonds re- that the derrick should fall. In the railway.

Justice Pearson: "You are aware that declared the office of adjutant general vacant, by reason of the incumbent having accepted the incompatible office under the confederate states, and that by a subsequent act the appointment was conferred on the governor. General James G. Martin, the present inof testing the legality of the action of the legislature by an appeal to the court, I am placed in a position rather embarrassing. To avoid the somewhat unpleasant spectacle of a law suit for possession of an office confidential in its relations to myself, I have concluded, with the consent of General Martin, to make a case and ask the opinion of the supreme court immediately thereon."

General Whiting wrote Governor Vance, March 2nd, that if negroes were not sent him to work on Fort Fisher and the other forts, he would have to impress them. Governor Vance sent him 500, from the interior of the state.

Writing to General Longstreet, who ommanded the department of North Carolina, asking him to retain General Pryor as commander on the Black Water, Governor Vance said: "Permit me, general, to express the satisfaction of the people of North Carolina, exhibited everywhere, on seeing the announcemen that they were to be defended by the gallantry and skill of General Longstreet."

N. W. Woodfin was the state's agent at the salt works at Saltville, Va. He had a hard time getting supplies from this state or shipping salt to it and Governor Vance wrote him that to remedy this he proposed to established a time of wagons to haul salt from Saltsville to Morganton.

March 5th Vance wrote Secretary of War Seddon a short letter about Colonel Peter Mallett, late commanding the camp of instruction near Raleigh, and saying: "His conduct while in command gave general satisfaction. He organized a camp guard of 600 men, who were duly officered by his assistants and drill masters and rigorously disciplined. Ordered suddenly into the severe conflict of Kinston, their conduct was such as to elicit the praise of veteran troops and the whole country. Colonel Mallett, their gallant leader, was severely wounded. On hobbling back to Raleigh he finds himself superseded by Colonel August and an order issued directing his command to be disbanded and placed in various regiments as conscripts. What is to become of him? It is a great hardship for these brave men after having fought together in the field and been associated together eight or ten months to be now scattered among strange regiments, their officers conscripted and their efficient and gallant commander out of the service. Though I am generally indisposed to form new regiretain Colonel Mallett in command of the camp as heretofore, whence he could be early sent into the field with his entire command. It is one of the finest bodies of men in the southern confederacy."

The secretary of the navy asked for 707 tons of railway iron at Laurinburg. saying the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherfordton railroad was to be built no further during the war, the iron to be used in plating iron-clad vessels. Governor Vance said he could have it, to be replaced six months after the

Samuel F. Phillips wrote the governor that the distillation of whiskey was become so great a consumer of corn the militia ought to be used to destroy the distilleries.

In a letter to General Bragg, Vance asked that 4,000 troops from this state which were all from the mountain region and which were in East Tennessee, guarding mountain passes, and bridges and keeping the population in check, be sent further from home as they were subject to but little discipline and their nearness to their homes caused constant desertions; in some cases almost complete disorganization. These troops consisted of the regiments of Allen, Love, Folk, and Palmer and plan to despoil some of the side lines, lation of corn, but there were then, as Colonel Thomas' Cherokee Indian bat- chief magistrate, in their name I denotably the Wilmington, Charlotte and now, moonshine outfits at work. Gov- talion. The governor said there were

were as good material for soldiers as there was upon the continent, and that under auspices they would shed as much glory on the name of North Carolina as their brothers had in Virginia and Middle Tennessee.

Philadelphia.

General S. G. French, writing from Petersburg, told Vance he had sent orders to Colonels Martin and Cantwell to move on Plymouth. Neither of those officers happened to be with his regiment and so the letters were forwardgrace to the service and to North Car- ed to them, as they were marked "personal." Then Colonel Radcliffe was or-Solicitor Merrimon sent in another dered to make the advance with Mar-

March 11,1863, Governor Vance wrote to James M. Mason, confederate states commissioner at London (of Slidell and Mason fame) that he had sent John White to England as agent for this state for the purpose of effecting a loan and purchasing supplies for the North Carolina soldiers, who by agreement with the confederate states were to be equipped by this state. The governor says: "I met here the Hon. Francis T. Lawley, of London, who said he could perhaps secure a loan of \$1,000,000 on favorable terms, by the means of some official and family influence which he could bring to bear, of some one at work on this building deemable in cotton at the present first place, the clips which held the prices in the confederacy, (about 17 to March 2nd the governor wrote Chief | 20 cents), to be delivered at Wilming- | known to slip except in this particular ton within three months after a treaty case. I have examined the clips and of peace. You can issue the bonds find that they are quite loose. Then yourself, having them printed, etc. I these clips would not be in such a consend you a power of attorney authorizing you to represent me in the matter. If the money is obtained, pay to Mr. White at least half the amount, or enough to purchase a steamer and cargo of such supplies as he is to buy." cumbent, having declared his intention | The governor wrote Mr. White to buy cotton cards, also machines for making them and added: "Cards are now the want of our people."

> The governor wrote Colonel D. K. MacRae that he need purchase only 2,500 rifles, instead of 10,000, the number at first proposed. He gave as a reason the refusal of the legislature to raise any state troops. (Letter dated March 12, 1863.) The governor added that he wanted Colonel MacRae, and not Saunders (who had also been sent abroad) to have the negotiation of the state script; that he had "no intention of letting Mr. S. hawk our paper about through Europe. You and Mr. White must put your fortunes together, ship your purchases together, etc."

> John Pool was tendered the command, with rank of lieutenant colonel, of a battalion of partisan rangers raised in the counties east of the Chowan river.

> March 13th, John C. Wilder tendered his resignation as captain and assistand adjutant general in the state ser-

> March 14th Daniel G. Fowle was appointed adjutant general.

The governor wrote General R. E. Lee that he had ascertained that certain soldiers belonging to Ramseur's and Hoke's brigades were being tried for desertion; that the cases of these men came under the terms of his official proclamation extending a full pardon to all who returned to their colors by March 5th, and be enters his solemn protest against the punishment of these men as a gross violation of justice and good faith.

The state of Georgia bought a half interest in machines for making cotton cards. Governor Vance sent a man to Georgia to see the machines and make drawings, at Governor Brown's suggestion. There was intense friendship between Vance and Brown and the letters of each are full of compliments and kind words. Brown declared that "if a supply of clothing and provisions can be made we can fight for a score of years."

Here is a characteristic telegram from Governor Vance dated March 25, 1863.to Secretary of War Seddon: "General Pillow has sent a detachment of cavalry into western North Carolina to enroll and arrest conscripts, without the shadow of law and in defiance of the proper authorities. Please order it stopped, through Colonel Coltart, ments, I am constrained to ask you to Greenville, Tenn., or there will be resistance and blood shed.

> The most interesting of all the letters in Vance's letter book is the following from him to President Davis, dated July 6th: "Last week the steamer Advance, purchased by this state in Europe, arrived at Wilmington with a cargo of soldiers' clothing. I went to visit her and went on board. Before doing so I obtained the permission of the commissioners of navigation and the military authorities (she being below town, on a sand bar) in compliance with the quarantine regulations. On returning to the wharf Lieutenant Colonel Thorburn, who was in command of the town, refused to admit me to land, alleging that the regulations were violated. Upon showing him the permission of the commissioner and assuring him of the assent of General Whiting, and remonstrating with him in person, he replied that he did-not care for Governor Vance nor Governor Jesus Christ; that I should not come off that boat in fifteen days, and accordingly placed a guard on the wharf, with orders to shoot any one attempting to get off. I was so detained until the chairman of the board of commissioners came to my relief, and thus lost the train for Raleigh. Having thus deliberately, wilfully and without excuse inflicted a gross insult upon the

mand his removal from the state and

that he be no more placed in command of her troops. If it be deemed indispensable that North Carolina soldiers should be commanded by Virginians, I should regret to see the Old Dominion retain all her gentlemen for her own use and furnish us only her blackguards."

IIt is interesting to note the fact of Thorburn's departure in forty-eight hours. It is said Vance was literally "the maddest man on earth." The steamer Advance, it will be remembered, had been bought in England by John White, Esq.]

A FEARFUL CRASH.

ADerrick on a Tall Atlanta Bullding Falls. Two Men Killed-Miraculous Escape of Another-The Work of a Fiend.

Atlanta, Ga., June 28 .- A derrick on the roof of a new building fell at 1 o'clock this afternoon, knocking three workmen from a scaffolding on the ninth story. Two of them were dashed to instant death on the ground, 125 feet below, and the third was saved in a miraculous way. The killed are: Palmetto Ayres, colored, aged 40, living at Austell, and Charles Kargill, colored, aged 35, of this city. W. M. Brown, white, carpenter, was cut about the head and arms.

The men were standing on a platform which skirts the edge of the minth floor, when the derrick fell. The part of the scaffolding upon which they were standing was swept away and the men were thrown into space. Brown grasped one of the derrick ropes as he shot through the air.

As the boom of the hoisting engine fell, the ropes on the tackle were set in motion, one going up and the other down. It was Brown's good fortune to catch the rope being drawn upward and he was hauled safely to the roof. To another boom of the derrick, projecting out on the other side of the building, was attached a car in which four men were standing. This boom likewise fell, but was held up by the roof. The car was dashed over the side of the building and swung there in safety. The men were shoved through a window, none of them being injured.

Mr. Gammon, superintendent of derricks, was seen, and said: "The killing of these men was no accident. It was, in my opinion, a plot on the part guy-ropes in place have never been dition unless they had been tampered with, and for that reason it was the intent of some one in this building that the derrick should fall. In the second place, these derricks are capable of raising five tons and we had only two and a half tons on them when they fell. The clips would never have slipped unless they had been tampered with."

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Admiral Miller Flatters the Britishers Portsmouth, June 28 .- Much disappointment is felt among the British naval officers at the fact that the queen did not review the fleet in person on Saturday, especially as she goes to

Aldershot Tuesday to review the

troops there.

Pleasure has been expressed here at a remark made by Rear Admiral J. N. Miller, U. S. N., to General Davis, commanding the Southern district. It was: "My advice, sir, to any nation going to war is to consult England

The United Special special envoy. Whitelaw Reid, gave a luncheon today in honor of Duc d'Auerstadt (Marshal Davoust), grand chancellor of the Legion of honor and special envoy of France. The guests included the United States ambassador, Colonel John Hay, and the Hawaiian representative, S. M Damon.

Destructive Storms

Macon, Ga., June 28 .- A special to The Telegraph from Dakota, Ga., says: Yesterday afternoon a severe storm of wind and rain visited this city. Lightning struck the convict stockade, completely tearing it up. Two convicts were instantly killed. Thirteen more were hurt, some of them badly crippled. Two other convicts made their escape and have not yet been captured. A great deal of timber was blown down and the telephone wires are all down. There was some hail, but it did very little damage. A wind and rain storm struck Cordele Ga., today at noon, blowing down Methodist church and the steeple of another church. There is also much damage to crops. Several outhouses were blown down. A number of people were badly hurt but no one was killed out-

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